County of San Diego

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Site Assessment and Mitigation Program (SAM) Monitoring Wells
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Alternative for Backfilling Large Diameter Geotechnical Borings

The following is offered by the Site Assessment and Mitigation Program (SAM) as an acceptable alternative to completely backfilling a large diameter geotechnical boring (diameter of the boring is 12" or more) with bentonite:

1. Begin with backfilling the bottom of the hole with two feet of bentonite grout.

2. A half-foot of bentonite grout must be placed after every five feet of clean native material. In circumstances where the soil formation is well known, one foot of bentonite grout after every ten feet of clean native material is also acceptable.

3. The top section between five feet and ten feet below grade shall also be filled with bentonite grout.

4. The registered professional as the 'generator' of the waste (soil cuttings) must determine by observation and if necessary appropriate analytical tests that the native soil is clean before it is used for backfilling.

There may be special circumstances in which the registered professional does not feel the above procedure is appropriate. To seek a variance from this procedure, you must submit a detailed description of the variation and the circumstances that require an alternative procedure. You must allow at least five business days for the SAM review of alternatives.

Relevant Sections from Water Well Standards: State of California Bulletin 74-81

> *A well that is no longer useful (including exploration and test holes) must be destroyed in order to assure that the groundwater supply is protected and to eliminate the potential physical hazard.*
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> *To prevent the vertical movement of water from the producing formation, impervious material must be placed opposite confining formations above and below the producing formations for a distance of ten feet or more.*
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> *When the boundaries of the various formations are unknown, alternate layers of impervious and pervious material shall be placed in the well.*